

Message Text

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ACTION SPC-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 1394

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OCON, XM, MX

SUBJECT: MF: CONVERSATIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTERS AND OTHER
DELEGATES

REF: A. STATE 32495 B. MEXICO 1395

SUMMARY. I SPOKE LAST NIGHT WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF CHILE, ECUADOR AND PERU, AS WELL AS DELEGATES FROM TRINIDAD (MCINTYRE), MEXICO (DE LA COLINA), ARGENTIAN (PULIT), AND COSTA RICA (LOPEZ). IN EACH CASE I EXPRESSED THE VIEWS IN PARAGRAPHS 3-6 OF REFTTEL A. THE REACTION, WHILE VARIED, WAS IN GENERAL GOOD, AND PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS COMPRESSING THE AGENDA AND PROVIDING MORE TIME FOR SATURDAY OVER-ALL DISCUSSION. END SUMMARY.

1. PERUVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DE LA FLOR SAID HE HAD BEEN THINKING ABOUT THE AGENDA AND HE, TOO, WAS CONCERNED THAT TOO MUCH TIME MIGHT BE ALLOTTED TO THE FIRST SEVEN AGENDA ITEMS AND NOT ENOUGH TO GENERAL HEMISPHERIC MATTERS (ITEM 8.) HE SAID HE WOULD GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THE U.S. VIEWS, BUT OPINED THAT THE TYPE OF RESPONSE THE U.S. GAVE TO THE SEVEN ITEMS WOULD HELP DETERMINE THE RAPIDITY WITH WHICH THEY COULD BE DEALT.

2. ADMIRAL HUERTA OF CHILE WAS AT FIRST DUBIOUS THAT THE MEETING WOULD PRODUCE MUCH IN THE WAY OF CONCRETE RESULTS AND INDEED
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WONDERED WHETHER THE MEETING HAD ANY REAL PURPOSE. HE AND OTHER

MEMBERS OF THE CHILEAN DELEGATION FELT THAT MUCH OF THE IMPULSE FOR THE MEETING -- AS FOR RESTRUCTURING THE OAS -- CAME FROM LEFTISH GOVERNMENTS, SUCH AS PERU, WHO WERE NOT REALLY INTERESTED IN REAL HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION AND WERE CONCERNED RE CUBA. MY PRESENTATION OF VIEWS DRAWN FROM REFTL (A) AND THE FACT THAT THE HIGH-LEVEL CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION WAS COMING SEEMED TO PUT HUERTA IN A MORE POSITIVE FRAME OF MIND RE THE CONFERENCE, AND HE ENDED IN APPARENT AGREEMENT WITH OUR IDEAS AS TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE MFM AND WITH RESPECT TO THE GENERAL TONE AND THE FINAL DOCUMENT. BOTH HUERTA AND AMBASSADOR BERNSTEIN OF HIS STAFF FELT STRONGLY THAT THE AGENDA WAS SKEWED AND THAT ARTICLE 8 AND THE SECRETARY'S OVERVIEW SHOULD COME FIRST.

3. AMBASSADOR MCINTYRE OF T&T AGREED IN GENERAL TERMS WITH OUR VIEW ON AGENDA COMPRESSION AND THE FINAL DOCUMENT. HE SAID HE HAD EARLIER BEEN CONCERNED THAT INCLUSION OF THE ENERGY ITEM INDICATED THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME CONFRONTATION -- EVEN A VOTE -- ON THAT ITEM, AND THAT IN VIEW OF THIS HIS FOREIGN MINISTER HAD DECIDED NOT TO COME TO MEXICO, BUT HE HAD BEEN REASSURED ON THIS POINT IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH EATON AND TAYLOR LAST FRIDAY NIGHT AND HAD THEN BEEN ABLE TO CHANGE PLANS OF HIS FOREIGN MINISTER; HE NOW WAS HOPEFUL FOR A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY CONFERENCE.

4. ECUDAORAN FOREIGN MINISTER LUCIO PAREDES AND OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION WERE CAUTIOUS, TO SAY THE LEAST, WHEN I SUGGESTED THE POSSIBLE COMPRESSION OF THE SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS. THEY SEEMED TO SUSPECT A DESIRE ON OUR PART TO GIVE SHORT SHRIFT TO THE "LATIN" ITEMS IN FAVOR OF MORE EMPHASIS ON THE ENERGY ITEM -- WHICH THEY WOULD LIKE TO HOLD DOWN TO A PRESENTATION BY SECRETARY KISSINGER. I SOUGHT TO REASSURE THEM ON BOTH THE AGENDA COMPRESSION SUGGESTION AND OUR INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT TO INCLUSION OF THE ENERGY ITEM.

5. AMBASSADOR MARCO ANTONIO LOPEZ OF COSTA RICA SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO FELT IT WOULD BE LOGICAL TO HAVE A THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF U.S.-LATIN RELATIONS (NOW ITEM 8) AS FIRST ITEM OF AGENDA. HE SAID FACIO PLANS TO MAKE AN ISSUE OF THE MATTER WHEN THE MEETING OPENS TODAY. LOPEZ ASKED MY VIEWS AND I REPLIED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD STATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS THE QUESTIONS IN ANY ORDER AGREED TO BY THE LANS; IT IS CONFIDENTIAL

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REALLY A LATIN QUESTION. BUT LOPEZ SAID THAT FACIO'S OWN VIEW WAS VERY STRONG THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH THE POLITICAL CLIMATE FIRST BEFORE DETAILS COULD BE ENTERED INTO TO GOOD ADVANTAGE. I TRIED THIS MORNING TO TELEPHONE FACIO TO RELAY TO HIM PERSONALLY THE VIEWS IN REFTL (A), BUT WAS UNABLE TO REACH HIM.)

6. MINISTER FRANCISCO PULIT OF ARGENTINA FOUND OUR VIEWS,

INCLUDING AGENDA COMPRESSION, COMPATIBLE WITH HIS OWN. HE SAID HE WOULD TAKE IT UP WITH THE REST OF HIS DELEGATION.

7. AMBASSADOR DE LA COLINA OF MEXICO ALSO FELT THAT OUR IDEAS WERE GOOD ONES. ON THE AGENDA QUESTION, HE SAID THAT THE EXPERTS MEETING REPORT WAS ONLY A SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND THERE WAS NO REASON WHY THE AGENDA COULDN'T BE CHANGED. (SEE SEPTTEL ON MY PHONE CONVERSATION THIS MORNING WITH RABASA.)

8. AMBASSADOR MACIEL OF BRAZIL SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTER GIBSON WOULD ASK THAT THE WHOLE MATTER OF AGENDA/TIMETABLE BE RECONSIDERED BUT THAT IN ANY CASE WOULD FAVOR COMPRESSION. HE SAID BARBOZA IS STILL DUBIOUS RE FINAL STATEMENT PROSPECTS BUT WAS ON OUR SIDE EXCEPT PERHAPS ON ENERGY.

9. COMMENT: NEARLY ALL THE DELEGATES AND FOREIGN MINISTERS WITH WHOM MY STAFF AND I HAVE TALKED IN THE PAST WEEK AGREE THAT CONFRONTATION SHOULD BE AVOIDED. HOWEVER, SEVERAL -- E.G., THE MEXICANS AND COLOMBIANS -- HAVE NOTED THAT THERE IS A CERTAIN "WE-THEY" QUALITY IN THE DIALOGUE WHICH CANNOT BE AVOIDED. SO FAR "FIRST TIME" LATINS ARE SPEAKING FROM AGREED POSITIONS. BUT THE MORE MODERATE MEMBERS ARE, I BELIEVE, COMMITTED TO KEEPING THE FRANKEST GIVE-AND-TAKE WITHIN THE CLOSED DOORS OF THE MEETING AND PHRASING THE FINAL DOCUMENT SO AS TO EMPHASIZE NOT ONLY POSITIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS, BUT ALSO HOPEFULNESS WITH RESPECT TO OUTSTANDING UNRESOLVED ISSUE. IT WOULD DOUBTLESS BE NAIVE TO EXPECT THAT THE "PRIVATE" DEBATE CAN BE KEPT OUT OF THE PRESS COMPLETELY, AND POINT IS MADE BY MANY THAT THE EXISTENCE OF SOME DIFFERENCES GIVES MFM GREATER CREDIBILITY.

10. IN THE COURSE OF THE DAY AND THE EVENING I WILL BE SEEKING TO TALK WITH OTHER MINISTERS AND DELEGATES, ESPECIALLY THOSE MENTIONED IN PARA 7 OF REFTEL (A). IN THE MEANTIME, MOST OF
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MORNING WAS SHOT (FOR VISITING FOREIGN MINISTERS AS WELL AS FOR RESIDENT AMBASSADOR) BY NEED TO ATTEND AIRPORT CEREMONIES WELCOMING PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA ON HIS RETURN FROM EUROPE.
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